

SAM HARLESS

State Representative District 126
October 2019 Newsletter



Texas House of Representatives



District 126

**News
and
Information**



Constitutional Amendment Propositions For the November 5th Ballot

This next election has a number of important proposed amendments that warrant your attention. From funding for flooding to state income taxes, these issues will affect us and our state for years to come and it bears repeating that good information will aid in your decision making.

In this month's newsletter I have provided excerpts from the Constitutional Amendment Newsletter mailed out to voters in the district.

For a deeper dive into an analysis of these propositions, go to: [Texas Legislative Counsel 2019 Proposition Analysis](#)

To find your voting day polling locations go click this link:

[Harris County Polling Map](#)

2019 Constitutional Amendment Propositions

Proposition 1 (H.J.R. 72)

“The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time.”

A “Yes” vote will permit a person elected as a municipal judge to serve more than one municipality at a time.

A “No” vote restricts a person to one elected judicial position at a time.

Proposition 2 (S.J.R. 79)

“The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas.”

A “Yes” vote on this measure supports the sale of general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board up to a total of \$200 million at any given time.

A “No” vote would require the TWDB be funded through general revenue allocations.

Proposition 3 (H.J.R. 34)

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster.”

A “Yes” vote supports allowing political subdivisions to permit a property tax exemption after the Governor has declared a disaster.

A “No” vote would require property owners to appeal appraisals based on diminished value from disasters.

Proposition 4 (H.J.R. 38)

“The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual’s share of partnership and unincorporated association income.”

A “Yes” vote confirms your support for a continuing prohibition on an individual state income tax.

A “No” vote leaves the constitution as it is today allowing the legislature to implement a personal income tax at a later date.

Proposition 5 (S.J.R. 24)

“The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas’ natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes.”

A “Yes” vote supports transferring the tax revenue from sporting goods sales to these two departments.

A “No” vote allows the legislature to determine allocation of funds, just as with other agencies.

Proposition 6 (H.J.R. 12)

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.”

A “Yes” vote on this measure supports increasing the amount of bonds sold by the Texas Cancer and Research institute.

A “No” vote would allow their current bonds to reach their limit on August 31, 2021.

Proposition No. 7 (H.J.R. 151)

“The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund.”

A “Yes” vote on this amendment permits the General Land Office to double the amount of funds distributed to schools.

A “No” vote would require the legislature to transfer funds each session to meet the needs of public education funding.

Proposition 8 (H.J.R. 4)

“The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects.”

A “Yes” vote on this amendment permits the creation of a flood infrastructure fund, independent of the general revenue fund. It is designed to provide financing for drainage, flood mitigation, or flood control projects.

A “No” vote would require the legislature to allocate funds each session to fund projects.

Proposition 9 (H.J.R. 95)

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state.

A “Yes” vote on this amendment would exempt precious metals being held in a depository from being taxed as personal property.

A “No” vote would allow precious metals held in depositories to be taxed as personal property.

Proposition 10 (S.J.R. 32)

The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances.

A “Yes” vote permits a legal transfer of service animals to their handler or caretaker upon retirement.

A “No” vote would require the animal remain with the original agency or follow current law on disposition of property.

Speaking Around The District

Speaking Opportunities



Northwest Chapter of the Houston Area Realtors

October 9th I was the guest speaker for the Houston Area Realtors from our area. I got a great opportunity to cover an overview of the 86th Session, some of our local legislation, as well as some of the propositions listed above. As always there are questions about the legislative process and what our area priorities will be for the coming session.

Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce

This month was the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce Legislative Update Meeting where we had a panel discussion. I attended with Representative Valoree Swanson and spoke about our respective bills from the 86th session. We each covered some of the major legislative pieces and successes from the last session such as Public Education Reform, Taxpayer Transparency, and the propositions for this November election.



In The District

Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce

Transportation and Mobility



Committee
2nd Tuesday of each month
Meeting Location:
29201 Quinn Rd.
Tomball, Texas 77375
Upstairs Conference Room

Tomball Government Affairs
Committee

**Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce
Transportation\Government Affairs
Committee**

CY-FAIR HOUSTON
Chamber of Commerce

The committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month to discuss governmental issues that confront their Cy-Fair area. They meet at the Chamber offices located at 8711 Highway 6 North, Ste. 120 Houston, TX 77095.

Cy-Fair Chamber Website



Visit the Houston NW Chamber
Website

**Houston NW Chamber
Public Safety Forum**

Public Safety Forum Meeting:
4th Thursday each month
8:30 am - 9:30 am
Champions Emergency Services
District
12730 Champion Forest Dr.
Houston, TX 77066

Visit our House of Representative Website:

Contact Us

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